ribonucleotide, a 2'-C_2H_5 ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH_2 ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide.

11. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH_3 ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH_2 ribonucleotide a 2'-NH(C_1-C_2 alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)$_2$ ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH_3 ribonucleotide.

12. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH_3 ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH_2 ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH_3 ribonucleotide.

13. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-SCH_3 ribonucleotide.

14. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N_3 arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH_3 arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH_3 arabinonucleotide.

15. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide or a 2'-O-CH_3 arabinonucleotide.

16. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide.

17. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide.

18. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH_3 ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH_2 ribonucleotide a 2'-$NH(C_1$-C_2 alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-$N(C_1$-C_2 alkyl)$_2$ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH_3 ribonucleotide, a 2'-$CH{=}CH_2$ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C_1-C_6 alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C_1-C_6 substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C_1-C_6 ether, C_1-C_6 thioether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl)$_2$.

19. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N_3 arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH_3 arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH_3 arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C_1-C_6 alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C_1-C_6 substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C_1-C_6 ether, C_1-C_6 thioether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl)$_2$.

20. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion is a 2'-O-(C_1-C_6 substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C_1-C_6 ether, C_1-C_6 thioether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or amino(C_1-C_6 alkyl)$_2$.

21. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 3' terminus end of said oligonucleotide.

22. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.

23. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positions at the 3' terminus of said oligonucleotide; and

at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positions at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.

24. The oligonucleotide of claim 21 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.

25. The oligonucleotide of claim 24 wherein said two nucleotides are joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage or a methylene(methylimino) linkage.

26. The oligonucleotide of claim 22 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.